

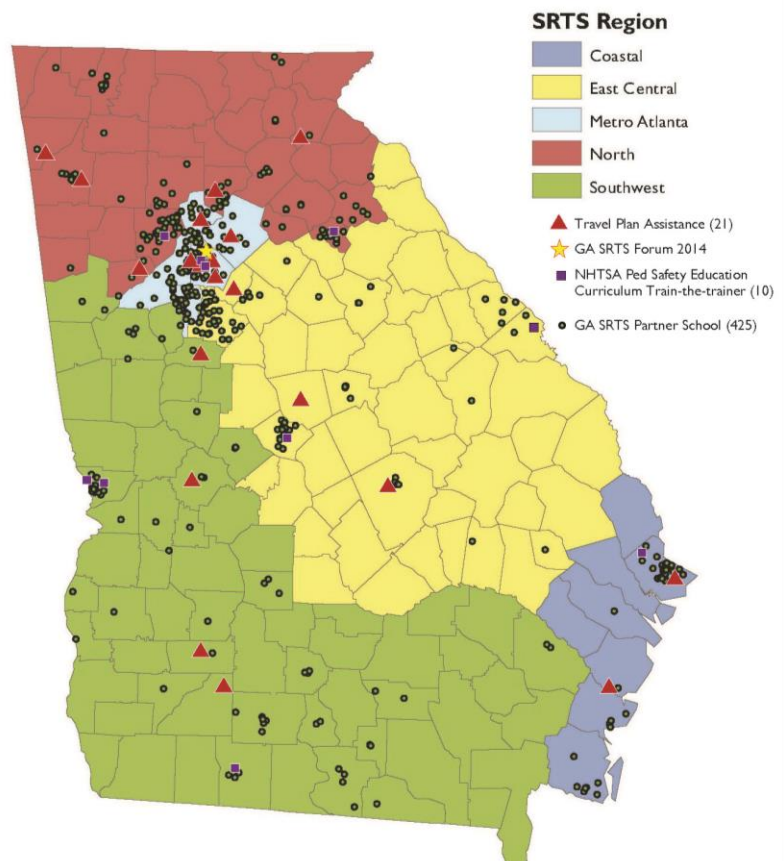


## Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource Center Monthly Progress Report December 2015

The Resource Center serves the State of Georgia by delineating outreach efforts into five geographic territories, serving 439 School Partners across the state. Additionally, the Resource Center has 290 Friends, or community stakeholder partners that support the state's mission. A map of the five outreach territories and the distribution of SRTS Partner Schools (denoted by dots), is shown on the right. The map also displays locations for National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Child Pedestrian Curriculum trainings, the sites of the Forums, and sites of SRTS Travel Plans administered by the Resource Center since the project's start in 2009.

During the month of December the Resource Center School Outreach Coordinators (SOCs) attended 108 meetings, facilitated nine presentations, attended 10 events and conducted two SRTS trainings.

All Partners are listed on the complete Partner list at the back of this report. No new partners were added in December. [Click here](#) for more information about the Resource Center's Partnership program.



## Outreach

### Metro Atlanta Territory – Nichole Hollis, School Outreach Coordinator



Nichole serves 145 partner schools in the Metro Atlanta territory.

In December, Nichole focused her efforts on collaborating with the Fulton County Sheriff's Department, educating prospective school partners, preparing school partners for Georgia Walk to School Day, and presenting information on the Safety-focused travel plan to the **Kindezi School**.

**Parkside Elementary School** held an award ceremony on

December 2<sup>nd</sup> for their fifth grade student and winner of the Saris Poster Contest in Georgia. The student's poster was included in a final selection of nine and was awarded a bike, helmet, and bell! The picture on the left shows a group of the winners' peers helping the student to celebrate his award.



On December 7<sup>th</sup>, Nichole coordinated a pedestrian safety event at **Campbell Elementary School** with the Fulton County Sheriff's Department. During the event, 138 students received safety vests, pedestrian safety information from School Outreach Coordinator, Nichole Hollis, and Fulton County Sheriff Department representatives. **Georgia Commute Options School's program** was also able to invite the "Rideshare Bear". The **Fulton County Sheriff's Department** was awarded a pedestrian safety grant from the **Governor's Office of Highway Safety** that provides 17 schools in Metro Atlanta with pedestrian safety education, safety vests, and bike helmets. The picture on the right shows Campbell Elementary School's fourth grade students and staff, Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource Center Coordinator, Fulton County Sheriff Department representatives, and Georgia Commute Options school's representatives.

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, Nichole presented information at the **Kindezi School's** parent meeting. She highlighted the importance of a Safe Routes to School Program and also announced the Safety-Focused travel plan award. The school is excited about the award and Nichole plans to meet with administration on January 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss further details.

In January, Nichole will continue to provide technical assistance to school partners preparing for Georgia Walk to School Day and will also focus on meeting with new school partners.

### East Central Territory – Corey Crumbley, School Outreach Coordinator

Corey currently serves 81 School Partners in the East Central Territory.

During December, Corey continued to reach out to his School Partners and Community Friends in efforts to establish himself as the School Outreach Coordinator for his territory. On December 8<sup>th</sup>, Corey attended the **Collaborative Christmas Luncheon**, which was hosted by **Tri-County Family Connection** under the direction of Kristy Bennett. On December 12<sup>th</sup>, Corey attended the **Winter Wonderland Event**, which was orchestrated by Lisa Rouse. During the week of December 14<sup>th</sup> through December 18<sup>th</sup>, Corey participated and supported the **Youth Action Team** by donating an unwrapped toy for a child, ages 3-4 to the **Head Start Center**, which consisted of three collaborative schools: **Treutlen High School, Wheeler County High School** and **Montgomery County High School**.

### **Winter Wonderland Event Highlights:**

The **Winter Wonderland Event**, presented by **Amerigroup**, was held at **May Park**; located at 622 4<sup>th</sup> Street Augusta, GA, on **Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> from 12pm-2pm**. This event promoted community engagement opportunity as well as creating a positive and healthy atmosphere for everyone! The signature event included in having a Santa present along with games, great music, and inflatables for the youth. This year, **Augusta Urban Ministries** donated 9 bikes, which were given out to the youth through a fun raffle drawing orchestrated by Lisa Rouse. During the event, Corey was able to meet with several of his Community Partners including the Augusta Partnership for Children, INC.



During the month of December, Corey attended 36 meetings throughout the East Central Territory, which included Augusta GA (Richmond County), and Helena GA (Telfair-Wheeler County) as well as participating and implementing 4 productive programs.

In January, Corey plans to set measurable goals, which will enhance his responsibilities and obligations as the School Outreach Coordinator. Corey also is scheduled to start the New Year by conducting a Walk Audit for one of his School Partners as well as assisting his fellow SRTS Coordinator and implementing a travel plan for **Mountain View ES (Marietta, GA)**.



### **North Georgia Territory – Elizabeth Jones, School Outreach Coordinator**

Elizabeth currently serves 105 School Partners in the North Georgia Territory.

During the month of December, outreach with friend organizations and local city councils was the primary focus. This provided the opportunity to “spread the word” about Safe Routes to School, as well as some of the initiatives planned for the spring semester.

During the **Safe Kids Douglas County Coalition** meeting and annual holiday event this month, Elizabeth was able to present updates on SRTS, as well as show appreciation for the partnership made with Safe Kids throughout the year. As a result, Elizabeth will be partnering with Safe Kids Douglas and Cobb representatives to reestablish the partnership with **Chapel Hill Elementary School in Douglasville**. The joint effort with Safe Kids will hopefully reassure parents’ walk to school concerns and ultimately get some use out of the relatively new infrastructure at the school.

Elizabeth also presented at the **Georgia Advisory Committee** meeting in Ringgold. The committee discussed the new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), as well as infrastructure grants available for North Georgia Schools. Elizabeth discussed the purpose of GA SRTS and how to get schools and local municipalities involved with the organization. At least one North Georgia School is making strides to apply for some of the available grant funding.

**Mountain View Elementary (Marietta)** staff, PTA officers and parents participated in the Comprehensive Travel Plan kick-off meeting this month. The timeline was discussed, dates were established and the team is geared-up and ready to work on the Travel Plan for their new campus. The next meeting is scheduled for February and meetings with the entire team, including Toole Design Group will take place in early March.

Elizabeth also attended city and county council meetings around the North Georgia Region, including Cobb County, Smyrna, and Hiram. Other meetings around the region are scheduled for the coming months. Elizabeth will be

partnering with one of the Smyrna City Council members to reach out to schools in Smyrna that are not active with SRTS. It is a goal to present project initiatives at regular meetings and build partnerships with all cities within the North Georgia Region during the 2016 calendar year.

Finally, to close out the month of December, Elizabeth emailed partners with a year-end update on all of the accomplishments made throughout the North Georgia Region in 2015. She also provided winter walking tips. This will hopefully inspire partners to stay involved while also becoming more active with SRTS in 2016!

### **Southwest Georgia Territory – Chelsea Carter, School Outreach Coordinator**

Chelsea currently serves 70 School Partners in the Southwest Georgia Territory.

The newest partner and recipient of the Travel Plan Assistance, **Jeff Davis Elementary School** in Hazlehurst, continues to prepare for meetings by gathering data and holding meetings with Chelsea once a week. Meetings have been set in both January and March to ensure the school will be equipped with all the necessities for their meeting with Toole Design in March.

With winter break around the corner for schools, Chelsea made a last push to collect data for Travel Tallies. During this process meetings with inactive or less active schools have been held or set in order to address partnership levels and opportunities with Safe Routes to School. **Sherwood Acres Elementary School** in Albany, Georgia plans to host a Walk Audit in January for their staff members to assess routes that students use daily. This school has been an inactive partner for some time, but due to collaboration with **Mike Stubbs** from the **Alliance for a Healthier Generation**, the school's understanding and interest in Safe Routes to School has been renewed. Chelsea will host a preliminary meeting a week before the Audit in order to prepare the school with the materials they need. Members from the **Southwest Georgia Regional Commission** will be present and participate in the Safety Audit.

Preparation continues for the upcoming annual **Youth Summit** hosted by the **Southwest Regional Commission**. At this summit Chelsea and **Barbara Reddick, Southwest Regional Commission Planner**, plans to provide sessions for the current counselors that will attend as well as those who will be invited from partner and prospect schools in the region. Sessions will include information ranging from the basics of SRTS and TDS, as well as information about Travel Plan and Safety Focus Assistance, then a presentation of current activity levels and possibilities for the region regarding the two programs. In efforts to promote the program to regional officials, Safe Routes to School and the summit were presented to a group at the Regional Commission office mid-December. This presentation spurred a detailed meeting with **Mayor James Eubanks** of Pelham discussing safety as well as the 'walking field trips' facilitated by the local elementary school.

The month of January will consist of planning for safety assessments and audits for both **Sherwoods Acres Elementary School** and **Jeff Davis Elementary School**. Presentations will be given to a Parent Committee at **Stringfellow Elementary School** in Moultrie and **Decatur County School System** in Bainbridge. All schools in the Southwest Georgia Region will be contacted both via phone and in person inviting them to send a staff member to the Youth Summit to be educated on SRTS and TDS.

### **Coastal Georgia Territory – Patti Sistrunk, School Outreach Coordinator**

Patti currently serves 44 School Partners in the Coastal Georgia Territory.

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, Patti gave bicycle safety education to more than 800 students at **West Chatham Elementary School** in Pooler, Chatham County. West Chatham Elementary, a Gold Level Partner, has more than 20 bicycle



riders daily with that number surging to more than 50 on warm weather days. Many of the students at the school live within a mile of the school and walk. Patti shared the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) [Bicycle Safer Journey videos](#), helmet safety demonstrations, bicycle safety check information, and hand signals with the children in three assemblies. Each student received a GA SRTS bicycle safety bookmark, and students that assisted in the presentations received reflective zipper pulls.

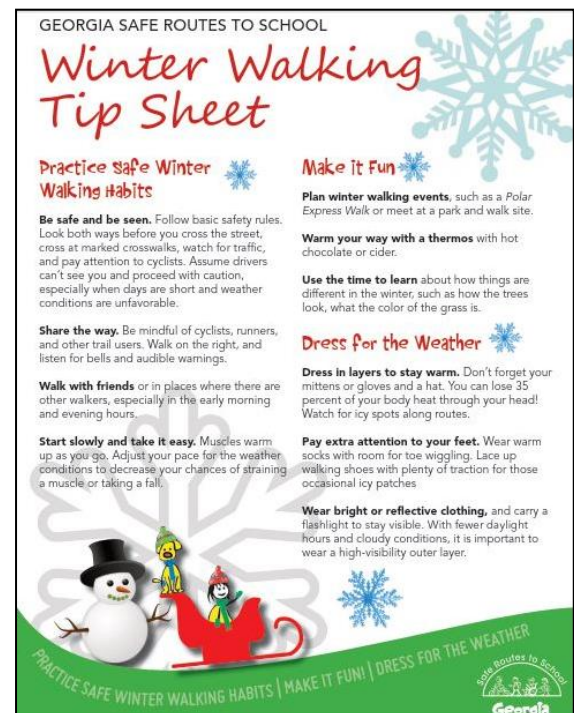
Patti, on behalf of the GA Safe Routes Resource Center, serves on the **Safe Kids Savannah Coalition Board**, a Friend of the Resource Center. She's the Vice Chair and chairperson of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Committees. During December, the Coalition held its annual holiday luncheon and meeting. Patti provided details about upcoming events and is working with Safe Kids to apply for bicycle and pedestrian grants to support school and community bike and ped activities.

### **Marketing and Resource Development, Travel Plan Assistance**

Toole Design Group provides marketing and resource Development support to the Resource Center. Carol Kachadorian is the marketing and planning lead. During December the project team developed a Winter Walking Tip Sheet that provides tips and ideas for walking in winter weather. The SOC's will distribute the tip sheet to school partners throughout January and February.

In December, the marketing team updated the website to include Georgia Walk to School Day information and registration. Downloads and content were updated to reflect the 2016 event to be held on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Travel Plan assistance will be provided to three schools in early 2016. Those schools were selected and notified in early November. SOC's began coordination with **Kindezi Elementary**, **Mountain View Elementary**, and **Jeff Davis Elementary Schools** in December. Data to be collected in January includes Student Travel Tallies, Parent Surveys, and student location information.



### **Thirty Day Look Ahead**

The Outreach team will work with schools that have been selected for Travel Plan assistance, continue to work with the Regional Commission offices. A Winter Web Conference is planned for January 20<sup>th</sup> with the Regional Commissions throughout the state to provide partner updates and provide assistance to Regional Commissions who may need travel planning or walk audit support. The team will promote Georgia Walk to School Day and encourage schools to register their events early.